

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Transient charged with capital murder in Long Beach arson attack

LONG BEACH – A 38-year-old transient was charged today with capital murder in Friday's arson attack on a man outside a Long Beach convenience store, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Raymond Sean Clark (dob 12-9-74) is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. at Los Angeles Superior Court, Long Beach, in Department J, said Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney with the Arson Unit.

Clark was charged with special circumstance murder and arson causing great bodily injury for the April 12 fatal arson attack that killed Jerry Payne, 63. Authorities said Payne was sitting alone in his vehicle parked near a convenience store in the 5100 block of Pacific Coast Highway when Clark allegedly walked up to the driver's side window and tossed a flammable substance inside. The vehicle and the victim both were enveloped in flames.

Witnesses extinguished the fire and the victim was taken to a local hospital. He died early Monday.

Clark, who was arrested a short time later, is being held without bail.

The complaint, NA095380, alleges special circumstances of lying in wait, torture and mayhem. Prosecutors will decide at a later date whether to seek the death penalty.

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